I claim:

1. A syringe comprising:

a barrel having leading and trailing ends;

a hollow bore needle extending from the leading end of the barrel and carried by a needle hub;

a resilient member connected between the barrel and the needle hub so as to urge the needle hub and the needle toward the trailing end of the barrel;

a crown removably attached to the needle hub and the barrel and preventing movement of the needle hub under the influence of the resilient member; and

a plunger slidably moveable within the barrel; the plunger carrying a removable core at its leading end leading to a hollow interior, the hollow interior being sized to receive the needle and the needle hub;

such that when the plunger is moved along the barrel towards the leading end, the plunger engages the crown and the needle hub engages the core so as to release the attachment between the crown and the needle hub and between the core and the plunger allowing the needle hub, and the needle to be retracted into the hollow interior of the plunger by the resilient member, wherein the core is removably attached to the plunger via a first resiliently deformable member.

2. A syringe according to claim 1, wherein the crown is removably attached to the needle hub via a second resiliently deformable member.

3. A syringe according to claim 2, wherein the second resiliently deformable member forms a seal around the crown, between the needle hub and the barrel.

4. A syringe according to claim 3, wherein the first resiliently deformable member forms a seal around the end of the plunger, between the removable core and the barrel.

5. A syringe according to claim 4, wherein the first and second resiliently deformable members are made from rubber and the barrel, the needle hub and the removable core are made from glass.

6. A needle unit for a syringe, the needle unit comprising:

a needle connected to a retraction mechanism for retracting the needle; and

a removable sheath for enclosing the needle,

wherein the sheath engages the retraction mechanism when it encloses the needle to prevent retraction of the needle prior to removal of the sheath.

7. A syringe comprising a needle unit according to claim 6.

8. A collar for attachment to a syringe having a barrel and a retractable plunger extending from one end of the barrel the collar comprising:

means to grip said end of the barrel; and

at least one stop member located so that, when the collar is attached to the barrel, the stop member projects over said end of the barrel such that, when the plunger is retracted from the barrel, a portion of the plunger impinges on the stop, preventing removal of the plunger from the barrel.

9. A collar according to claim 8 wherein the collar is made from a plastics material.

10. A syringe comprising: a barrel; a retractable plunger extending from one end of the barrel; and a collar according to claim 8.

11. A syringe according to claim 10 wherein the barrel is made from glass.